



TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

Community Planning & Physical Services Committee
Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Room 400

June 14, 2018
6:00 PM

MINUTES

1. Call to Order – 5:30 pm
2. Communications - 5/16/18 Meeting Minutes
3. Staff Reports
 - a. Public Works – All costs associated with staff's mutual aid response to tornado damage in Southbury, CT have been submitted to FEMA; 650 work orders were processed last month, in part due to Mobile311.
 - b. Community Development – A selection committee will be interviewing 3 consultants next week for the POCD update.

Staff will be meeting with residents from two neighborhoods to review proposals to address parking concerns. New regulations are proposed on some streets just west of the center. South of center, restrictions to be added on Boulevard and the elimination of metered parking on Burr should make for safer conditions.

Park/84 is progressing well and frequent changes to traffic patterns will make things more disruptive. Round 2 paving includes night work in the industrial area of Dexter and Shield.

South Main, south of Elmfield will have the same bike lane arrangement as the Boulevard. The elimination of on street parking on one side of South Main has begun to generate complaints.

4. Business Items:
 - a. Eversource – Tree Removal at Substation adjacent to Vanderbilt Park
Jaime Lintner of Eversource and his tree removal contractor discussed plans to remove and re-plant trees at the substation. Earlier this year, a pine split and just missed critical equipment. The plan is to remove the pines and replace with a mix of smaller trees that will provide better screening. A letter went out to residents and Eversource will go door to door once the start date is determined.

Multiple residents spoke and noted that they hadn't received letters. One in particular expressed frustration with Eversource's historic lack of respect towards the neighborhood.

The replanting plan was discussed and Mr. Lintner expressed a willingness to add more trees than originally contemplated, including along the boundary with the park. The plan was to remove 30 but add back 60.

It was agreed that the Town would organize a neighborhood meeting on the replanting plan. Since it is getting late in the season to plant, the goal is to meet during the summer and begin the project right after Labor Day.

- b. Fracking Waste Policy – A proposed policy, in lieu of a Town ordinance, was reviewed as the issue is still one being considered at the state level. The policy would prohibit the use of fracking waste by contractors replying to and executing contracts with the Town. There was some discussion to consistently use “fracking waste” in the policy that will be implemented by the Town Manager.
- c. S.M.A.R.T. Pilot – Matt Hart introduced the topic and identified that it is likely to be an agenda item for multiple meetings. John Phillips reviewed the executive summary of the proposal to implement a pay as you throw model for municipal solid waste (MSW). The program is designed to promote recycling and reduce MSW tonnage which will decrease costs as tipping fees continue to increase in the near term, and increase more dramatically in the 2024-2025 timeframe. Program revenue would pay for enhanced services like regular yard waste collections and reduce future borrowing costs for capital equipment.

Questions were asked regarding the future of recycling. The product market is changing as manufacturers are being pushed to take on a cradle to grave approach to new products.

The issue of piloting the program was discussed. The proposal calls for an 18 month pilot that would involve a 6 month ramp up and then the review of 12 months of data on MSW and cost reductions.

There was recognition that the program would not be popular with many residents. The cost saving nature of the program isn't the right argument. The better argument is the need for a forward looking, long term approach to a growing problem.

Mr. Phillips discussed alternatives to SMART, which include, maintaining the status quo, a complete privatization via subscription, or franchising. With franchising, the Town solicits and residents contract with one waste hauler. The food waste pilot was discussed. It was successful but the infrastructure is not in place. Not enough towns are collecting food waste so there are few facilities built to accept it.

The issue to pilot or not was discussed again. Since the proposal would be to start town wide it, as opposed to a limited area, some felt it wasn't a pilot. Councilors discussed starting it and stopping if it doesn't work rather than calling it a pilot.

Councilor Wenograd asked that a more specific action be developed and put to a calendar for the next discussion. A field trip to a pay as you throw community was also considered.

Accessory Dwelling Units – Mr. Wenograd started by addressing the memo that was included in the meeting package. He was concerned that it read as if certain points were conclusions and wanted to focus the discussion on “in-law” type ADUs as opposed to free standing ADUs or pods. Apartments could be treated as a rec room or any addition that still must meet zoning requirements for density, setbacks, etc. Limitations on the number of ADUs of this type in a specified area or owner occupied requirements could be considered.

Mr. McGovern noted potential challenges that result with the passing of time. Apartments can grow within existing foot prints and enforcement will be difficult. Home buyers do not expect multi-family homes in single family districts.

5. Adjournment – 7:50 pm